Claim amendments. Please amend claim 1 and cancel claim18, as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of designing a primary geometry for a
   powder pressing application, comprising:

   generating a primary geometry of a component to be formed by powder
pressing using a computer program through a user interface wherein the primary
geometry is developed using a combination of predefined axisymmetric geometric
shapes, said axisymmetric geometric shapes selected from cylinders, cones, toroids,
spheres, parallelepipeds, ellipsoids, and polyhedrons, and transition radii to simulate
said primary geometry, said predefined axisymmetric geometric shapes having
variable dimensions;

   developing a finite element mesh representing said primary geometry, said
finite element mesh generated automatically and internally through said computer
program;

   defining pressing boundary conditions;

   defining a powder and powder material properties to be pressed in said
primary geometry;

   calculating deformation characteristics of said powder and primary geometry
using a deformation, nonlinear, quasi-static finite element code; and

   evaluating said deformation characteristics to determine the acceptability of
said primary geometry.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step
   of optionally modifying said primary geometry, said powder material properties of
   said component, and said pressing boundary conditions to form a component
   geometry for use in powder pressing.

3. (CANCELED)

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein said powder is selected from a
   ceramic powder, a metal powder, a pharmaceutical powder, a plastic powder and
   mixtures thereof.

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5. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The method of claim 1 wherein said development of the finite element mesh and said calculation of the deformation characteristics are performed in less than 60 minutes.

6. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 5 wherein said development of the finite element mesh and said calculation of the deformation characteristics are performed on a personal computer.

7. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1 wherein said finite element mesh represents a two-dimensional primary geometry.

8. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1 wherein said finite element mesh represents a three-dimensional primary geometry.

9. **(CANCELED)**

10. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1 wherein the primary geometry is the design a forming die.

11. **(CANCELED)**

12. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1 wherein the primary geometry is generated with the aid of a graphical user interface on a computer.

13. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1 wherein the step of generating the primary geometry uses said axisymmetric geometric shapes selected from a menu of axisymmetric geometric shapes interactively selected with the aid of a graphical user interface on a computer.

14. **(CANCELED)**

15. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1 wherein the primary geometry is generated with the aid of a graphical user interface on a computer using physical dimensions from a finished part.

16. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1 wherein the primary geometry is generated with the aid of a graphical user interface on a computer whereby the geometric shapes used to construct the primary geometry are selected from a display menu on a computer screen.

17. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A method of designing a die geometry for a powder pressing application, comprising:

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generating a die geometry of a component to be formed by powder pressing using a computer program wherein the die geometry is developed using a combination of predefined axisymmetric geometric shapes, transition radii, and transition spaces to simulate said primary geometry, said predefined axisymmetric geometric shapes having variable dimensions, said axisymmetric geometric shapes selected from cylinders, cones, toroids, spheres, parallelepipeds, ellipsoids, and polyhedrons;

developing a finite element mesh representing said die geometry, said finite element mesh generated automatically and internally through said computer program;

defining pressing boundary conditions;

defining a powder and powder material properties to be pressed in said primary geometry, said powder selected from a ceramic powder, a metal powder, a pharmaceutical powder, a plastic powder and mixtures thereof;

calculating deformation characteristics of said powder and die geometry using a deformation, nonlinear, quasi-static finite element code; and

evaluating said deformation characteristics to determine the acceptability of said die geometry.

18. (CANCELED)

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